

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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ACTOR SEAN ASTIN, PRODUCER ANGELO PIZZO SUPPORT DENBO'S FILM INCENTIVES BILL

INDIANAPOLIS – Actor Sean Astin (Samwise Gamgee in *Lord of the Rings* and Daniel E. 'Rudy' Ruettinger in *Rudy*) and screenwriter producer Angelo Pizzo (*Rudy* and *Hoosiers*) visited the Statehouse today to advocate for State Rep. Jerry Denbo's (D-French Link) legislation to encourage film production in Indiana.

The proposal, originally contained in House Bill 1369, would give film and audio production a 30 percent credit on Indiana state tax liability and if no tax liability existed, the credit would be transferable to investors or could be sold. A sales tax exemption for production-related equipment purchased in Indiana would also be made available.

Film and audio production companies would have access to the capital investment tax credit and the Hoosier Investment tax credit. Filming on state-owned property, including public universities, would be free. Film and audio production training programs would be offered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

While House Bill 1639 did not make it out of the House earlier this session, Denbo and other lawmakers are attempting to revive the proposal in legislation before the Indiana Senate.

"Indiana needs to look at the film and audio production industry as a viable industry to foster economic development in the state," said Denbo. "Industry is not just factories with smokestacks. We need to start rethinking the economy."

Denbo commented that Orange County would benefit from this legislation as an ideal place for movies to be shot in Indiana. He also said that the bill works well with the total destination resort slated for construction in the area.

Astin outlined the economic benefits Indiana would experience should this legislation pass.

"The more minutes I spend focusing on this issue, the more astonishing it is to me that legislators haven't leapt at this opportunity," said Astin. "I'm excited that Rep. Denbo has introduced this legislation so Indiana can be in vanguard of this cultural global movement."

He noted that workers can be easily trained for jobs in this industry. Providing these incentives would benefit the state, because no matter the economic situation, Americans like to go see movies and watch TV.

"This business is one of the things Americans do better than anyone else and who's more creative, has better ethics, and works harder than Hoosiers?" Astin said.

Pizzo also strongly supported the bill as well.

"I support Rep. Denbo's bill because it would create opportunities for more films like *Rudy* and *Hoosiers* to be shot in Indiana," said Pizzo. "I have two films that would be shot here if this legislation is passed but I might have to take them somewhere else if the legislation is not passed."

Attempts are being made to insert this proposal into a Senate bill so that it can be passed during this legislative session.